

**HOUSE BILL NO. 380**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE HOUSE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/31/14

Referred: Health and Social Services

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

1 **"An Act relating to the selection by the Department of Health and Social Services of**  
2 **vendors under the federal Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and**  
3 **Children."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 \* **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section  
6 to read:

7 WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN PROGRAM PLAN AMENDMENT. The  
8 Department of Health and Social Services shall immediately apply to the United States  
9 Department of Agriculture for an amendment to the state plan for the Special Supplemental  
10 Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children under 42 U.S.C. 1786 to provide for a  
11 hardship exemption to vendor selection and approval criteria. The hardship exemption  
12 application must seek authorization to select and approve a vendor for participation in the  
13 Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children if the vendor serves at  
14 least 35 recipients under the program who are of a specific nationality, ethnicity, religion, or

- 1 culture and are likely to encounter language, food selection, or other cultural barriers when
- 2 purchasing from another vendor.